

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C. MONDAY, JAN. 14, 1856.

No Speaker yet.

The House of Representatives.

Still the question of the Speakership remains unsettled, and apparently as far from a settlement as ever. The opinion gains ground that without a resort to the plurality rule, no conclusion can be arrived at; and, we must confess, that we see no result which can flow from the adoption of this rule save the election of Banks. For this reason we are not anxious to hear of anything being done. The country is not suffering materially from the present anomalous position of affairs, and there can be no necessity for undue haste in bringing on an issue upon which the chances so largely favor the choice of an avowed abolitionist. It is believed that there are men voting for Banks, who, in their hearts, do not desire his election. Of his supporters, or at least those voting for him, about twenty would be Democrats—the balance are Whigs and abolitionists. The breach between the "South Americans" and the Democrats becomes every day more irreconcilable.

The fight for the Speakership has had one good effect. It has made a strong abolitionist in Pennsylvania a very strong-talking Southern Rights man in Washington city. We allude to Mr. Fuller, who, from an active partizan of Nicholson in the fall election in his own State, has kept edging over until he has got quite round.

The fact is that the question of the Speakership is an exceedingly complicated one even to those present at the seat of government, and doubly so to those at a distance. We can only look on and report progress. Events have so often proved the unreliability of calculations supposed to have been based upon the best data, that little dependence is now placed upon any calculation. We suppose there will be a Speaker some time, and when there is we will publish the fact.—No doubt the announcement will come when we are least expecting it.

We see going the rounds of some of the papers a letter from Mr. John F. Murrill, of Onslow Court House, Postmaster, addressed to Horatio King, Esq., First Assistant Postmaster General, in which Mr. Murrill magnanimously throws up his commission, and foregoes the immense emoluments of that lucrative office, because he has seen a letter from Hon. R. C. Puryear, of this State, etc.

Now, really, we cannot sympathize as deeply with the sufferings of "Horatio King, Esq." as some people might suppose, for the simple reason that we have no idea that Horatio King, Esq., attaches the importance to it that its extreme gravity demands, neither do we think that the organization of Congress will be materially hastened or retarded on account of it. Our present reference arises from another cause—the letter of Hon. R. C. Puryear. We recollect when that letter came out, in the "American Organ," at Washington city, and we also recollect seeing in the same paper a letter from Mr. King, in which he conclusively showed that Mr. Puryear had misunderstood him in the conversation reported by that gentleman. Mr. King did not say, as understood and reported by Mr. Puryear, that a Foreigner and a Catholic should have the preference over an American and a Protestant. He said that a man who was not a Know-Nothing would be appointed in place of and in preference to one who was, and that his religion or birth place would make no difference, provided he was a good and true American citizen.

The number of the "Organ," containing this letter from Mr. King was mislaid or perhaps taken out of our table by some person coming in. People will think exchange papers public property. At any rate we could not find it next day, when we wanted to publish Mr. Puryear's letter and it together, and so we dropped the matter, expecting to meet with it again in some of our exchanges. However, our recollection is clear about the essential part of Mr. King's explanation, which puts a totally different face upon the whole matter. Justice and fair dealing would certainly have required of those papers publishing Mr. Puryear's letter, also the publication of Mr. King's explanation. Some, perhaps did not see it, but the facts of the case are exactly so. We presume that nobody expects the administration to retire or appoint its bitter opponents in preference to its political friends.

INDIANA.—The Democratic State Convention of Indiana met at Indianapolis on the 8th inst., and unanimously adopted resolutions endorsing the principles of the compromise measures of 1850, and their application as embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and pledging themselves faithfully to maintain them;—in favor of civil and religious liberty, and against all secret political societies antagonistic to them. The Convention also endorsed the course of the national Democrats in Congress. The name of Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana, is presented to the National Convention as one who enjoys the confidence of the Democracy of that State.

ACCIDENT ON WILMINGTON & WELDON RAILROAD.—On last Friday night, while Mr. Wm. Gay, section Master on the above road, near Rocky Mount, was passing over the road on his hand car, with two negro laborers, an unexpected locomotive, which had been dispatched from Goldsboro' to Weldon for the mail train, was discovered approaching very near; the negroes jumped off, leaving Mr. G. alone on the hand car, when he was knocked off by the locomotive, and, we regret to learn, was killed instantly, his skull having been broken. Mr. Gay was very much respected by those who knew him.

Pennsylvania.

The election of Ex-Governor Bigler, as United States Senator from Pennsylvania by a vote of 82 to 5, shows a Democratic preponderance far greater than even we had looked for. Gov. Bigler is a strictly national man, and rather over a year ago was defeated for Governor by Pollock, K. N. and Free-Soiler, mainly on that issue. David R. Porter, Ex-Governor and Ex-Democrat, was thought to have some chance but he and his friends were woefully disappointed. Pennsylvania is indeed redeemed.

A Democratic meeting is to be held in Fayetteville on Monday evening next, to respond to the sentiments contained in the President's message. The Carolinian is glad to learn that some good men of the opposite party, in Moore, have enlisted under the banner of the national Democracy. Push along the column.

The only thing from Washington, worthy of note, is the fact that the Free Soilers seem to have gotten into a sort of squabble among themselves.—They criminated and recriminated, and let out the secrets. Campbell of Ohio, on the 16th, came down on Banks, and they had an amusing time generally.

STATE BONDS.—D. W. Court, State Treasurer, advertises for sale \$25,000 of North Carolina Bonds, to bear six per cent. interest from the first of January, 1855, and \$15,000 from the first of January, 1856.—The interest payable semi-annually. Proposals to be received at Raleigh until the 19th of February next.

Mr. Whitaker has laid on our table Frank Leslie's illustrated Newspaper, price ten cents, and his New York Journal, twenty-five cents, both splendid pictorial and interesting works.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

HALIFAX, Jan. 16.—The steamer America arrived here this evening from Liverpool, with dates to Saturday, the 5th inst. The great question of war or peace is still undecided. Peace prospects are not brighter, as Russia raises obstacles. The Czar's reply to the ultimatum of the Western Powers had not been received, but was expected by the 18th inst.

The rates of money were rising in England, and bullion was decreasing.

THE PEACE PROSPECTS.—The peace negotiations are becoming more complicated than ever. Esterhazy presented the proposals, backed by Austria, to the Czar on the 28th ult., but Nesselrode's circular had previously put an interpretation on the third point which the allies cannot admit, namely: that Russia and Turkey shall mutually agree on the strength of the fleet to be kept in the Black Sea. The allies, on the other hand, demand of Russia to close the mouth of the Danube, which she refuses to do, hence the prospect of an amicable adjustment is very slight.

Nesselrode had addressed a circular to the representatives of Russia at foreign courts, stating that Russia accepts the third point of the ultimatum of the Western Powers, relative to the neutralization of the Black Sea, in the following sense:—That the right of Turkey to close the Straits be maintained; that no ships of war be admitted into the Black Sea except Russian and Turkish; that the number of ships be mutually arranged by Russia and Turkey, by special treaty between these two powers alone. The allies, of course, reject this interpretation.

Esterhazy reached St. Petersburg on the 26th, and on the next day laid his propositions before the Russian Cabinet. Count Buel subsequently communicated to Prince Gortschakoff at Vienna and the terms on which the Western Powers would assent to peace, stating those terms were approved by Austria.—[These terms have already been published.] Russia makes known in Nesselrode's circular her unwillingness to treat for the neutralization of the Black Sea, but it is expected that she will absolutely refuse to the cession of the territory required to keep open the Danube.

Agreements recently indicate that Austria will not take the field against Russia unless assured of effective support of the German Bund.

The Wesen Gazette states that an additional article touching the third point has been added to the treaty of December 21 between Austria, France and England. It does not, however, impose on Austria the obligation to take part in the war in case Russia refuses to accept the third point as interpreted by Nesselrode.

A Russian Court is displeased with Baron Seebach's mission to St. Petersburg, and has sent Baron Mantel to Dresden to demand positively to what extent Bavaria and Saxony have engaged themselves with the Western allies.

SWEDEN.—Advices from Sweden are very warlike. The military commanders have received instructions to have their regiments in the highest state of efficiency before Spring. The indications are that in accordance with the article of the treaty Sweden will take the field in the Spring.

The Danish government, it is said, consents to the establishment of depots for the English fleet at Kiel, which will rendezvous there in April.

THE CRIMEA.—The latest accounts from the Crimea state that the Russian troops had been reinforced by two regiments of Hussars. Also, that large bodies of Russian troops were marching from the Crimea to Bessarabia. There was no indication how far they had reached their position, as their places will be filled by the reserves.

The fleet of gun boats of the allies had been frozen in at Kiburn.

From Asia intelligence has been received that Omar Pacha has returned to Soukum Kaleb renouncing his intention of making an attack on Ptoleis.

The Russians took possession of the defiles at Hassam as soon as Selim Pacha returned to Erzeroum.—The greater part of the Russian army will winter at Kars.

Many persons were quitting Erzeroum under apprehensions of an attack from the Russians.

From St. Petersburg accounts say that the Czar has directed the commandant of the Finland and Baltic provinces to report the means of their defence to a grand council of war.

Contracts are advertised for immense quantities of artillery, stores, &c.

NEW RUSSIAN CIRCULAR.—Lord Nord publishes an analysis of Count Nesselrode's circular. The circular owns that the desire expressed by the Emperor of the Russian Empire, for the maintenance of peace, is a prompt and durable peace, was at the same time, and will be, the dearest wish of the Emperor Alexander.—Referring to the Vienna Conference, the circular casts upon the allies the blame of having then rendered abortive. So long as his enemies resolved to substitute force for the spirit of justice and conciliation, the Czar was obliged to remain silent; but as soon as he heard that his enemies were disposed to take up again the negotiation of peace on the basis of the Vienna Conference, he did not hesitate to come forward frankly to meet those pacific dispositions, and to seek frankly a possible solution for the third point. The Russian proposition are already known. The circular concludes by saying that Russia calmly and confidently awaits the decision of her enemies. When Austria and the Western Powers agreed on the conditions to be sent, they were to communicate to the other powers what those terms were. Until these terms should have reached their destination, secrecy was to be kept.

THE JOURNAL DE DEBATS says:—It is expected that the reply of Count Nesselrode will be in conformity with the declarations contained in his circular of December 22. Our correspondents at Berlin do not expect that Count Esterhazy's mission will be a successful issue. They think it likely, however, that the ambassador may defer to his government and demand new instructions before taking decisive and irrevocable steps. Nothing gives reason to believe that Russia persisted in taking her risk of a third campaign than do so.

THE COUNCIL OF WAR AT PARIS.—London, Jan. 5th.—The Post says:—In the course of a few days a general council of war is to be held at Paris, in which England will be represented by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Richard Atrey and Sir Harry Jones, together with Admirals Sir Edmund Lyons and Dundas. The object of this council is to collect, to interchange and to consider all possible information with respect to the war; but it will not be in the province of the council to plan the campaign, or to decide on the beginning of January what is to be done in April. The council having deliberated fully on the important objects which suggest themselves, will communicate the result of their labors to their respective governments, who will discuss the questions which may be raised, and having decided, they will give the necessary orders to secure the objects they may have in contemplation.

RUSSIA.—Hamburg, Jan. 4th.—The Grand Duke Constantine, as the head of the naval service of Russia, has issued a circular to his several departments, requiring that all reports shall contain the naked truth; defects and mismanagements are no longer to be glossed over; officials disobeying this injunction are to be dismissed from the service.

The publication of the Austrian concordat is prohibited in Russia, lest it should cause religious disorder.

The Czar has also issued a decree conferring on peasants the right to possess landed property in Poland. Personal serfdom is to be repealed by annual payment. Three years are allowed for the execution of the decree.

The Muscovite party are trying to supersede Gortschakoff by Morsadoff in the Crimea. Morsadoff is appointed Military Governor of Cronstadt.

The Invalids Russia publishes a proclamation by Gen. Mouraviev, calling the entire population of Imperial Mingorilla to wage a war of extermination against the enemies of the Cross. It is this measure which is supposed to have induced Omar Pacha's retreat.

ENGLAND.—The West India mail packet Tyne has arrived at Southampton. She had on board specie to the value of about \$300,000. It weighed nearly eighty tons, and principally consisted of specie from India.

THE PAPERS ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF AYLSBURY.—Saturday, the 29th, the grand military fête of the entry into Paris of the regiments from the Crimea came off. Immense crowds thronged the streets. Admiral Lyons and Gen. Marmora are in Paris.

SPAIN.—The Duke of Soto Mayor has committed suicide.

TURKEY.—Letters from Constantinople state that the Austrian government has made a satisfactory explanation to the Porte respecting the seizure of Colonel Tork on Ottoman territory. Other accounts from Constantinople say that the popularity of Omar Pacha has been much diminished by reason of the failure of his present expedition.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The arrival of the Indian mail brings interesting intelligence. A battle occurred Nov. 7th, in Oude, between the fanatic insurgents and the British troops, under Captain Barlow, the latter assisting the troops of the King of Oude. Five hundred dead were left on the field and the insurgents dispersed, but the country is yet unsettled. Martial law has been proclaimed in the Santal district. The Santal insurrection is not suppressed, and is no longer dangerous. An expedition up the Persian Gulf to compel Persia to give up her conquest is talked of.

The order prohibiting the export of saltpetre from India, except to England, is loudly complained of. Chinese affairs to Nov. 15, remain unchanged.

FINANCIAL.—The Daily News' city article, dated Friday evening says:—The English stock market to-day exhibited renewed nervousness. At one period a fresh decline of 1 per cent. was established, but at the close the reaction from yesterday's final quotations did not exceed 1 per cent. Any tendency towards improvement is checked by the continued sales, some of which are attributed to the requirements of governments. The prospects of the money market are also regarded with less confidence. Pending the Czar's definitive reply, some disposition is still shown to support the market.

The general demand for money to-day was again extraordinarily active, this being the 4th of the month. In the Stock Exchange, however, money was rather easier at about five per cent. on government securities. At Paris to-day the three per cent. rentes rallied about 2 per cent. for money; the final quotations for the account was slightly lower than that of yesterday. There was still some inquiry to-day for exportation. The improvement to-day in the exchange on Paris is attributed to the large amount of Australian and other gold lately received from this side.

The heavy arrival of silver by the Tyne may have had some influence. The corn market to-day was firmer.

A great portion of the numerous grain cargoes lately arrived have been disposed of. One of the most interesting changes in the weekly balance-sheet of the bank is the increase of £146,095 in the government securities held by the bank. This feature would fully explain upon the presumption that the bank is assisted by the treasury to meet the heavy disbursements incidental to the season.

The falling off in the bullion is £161,720, half as much as that shown in the last return; but the movement of this item evidently continues on the adverse side, and will occasion anxiety.

We clip from the Washington Union of the 19th inst., the following editorial. We shall take the earliest opportunity to lay the debate, of which that paper speaks, before the readers of the Journal:—The Responsibility once more fixed upon the Anti-Nebraska majority of the House.

The interesting debate of yesterday in the House of Representatives should be spread before the people the whole country. The responsibility for the continued disorganization of the House was fastened upon the republican or anti-Nebraska majority in a manner so conclusive as to have compelled the opposition to a variety of expedients to ward off the arguments of the democrats. It was not only established that the anti-Nebraska majority could have elected Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, or any other anti-Nebraska man, save and except Mr. Bates, on Wednesday last, but that on most of the other ballots Mr. Banks himself could have been elected had the anti-Nebraska vote been united upon him. This vote is the majority of the House, and the democrats the minority. The latter cannot elect themselves, nor induce the know-nothings to vote for their candidate, nor vote themselves for the candidate of the know-nothings; and if either of the two last objects could be accomplished, it is clear that the anti-Nebraska majority would prevent an election.

The only party in the House in the majority, and as a majority united upon a principle, is that of the anti-Nebraska members. The rest are divided by an impassable chasm. The democracy are opposed alike to the republicans and to the know-nothings; and in turn, these two parties oppose the democracy. The latter cannot unite with either wing of the opposition without dishonour; nor will they knowingly act with the democracy unless they are permitted to elect the candidate. There is, then, no party left to decide the conflict—and that is the majority, or the anti-Nebraska vote; and upon this responsibility of the organization is irrevocably fixed.

Marine Disaster.

SAVANNAH, Jan. 14.—The barque Charles William from Boston, arrived here to-day. She reports having fallen in with the British barque Thomas Ritchie, from New York, for Dodge (1) completely disabled in a gale on the 5th. The Charles William took off the captain and crew (who abandoned their vessel) and brought them into this port.

Arrival of the Cahawba.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The Cahawba, from New Orleans via Havana, arrived here this morning, with dates of the 13th from the latter port.

The Spanish steamer Mexico sailed from Havana for Vera Cruz on the 13th inst. It was reported that one of Santa Anna's agents went in her to observe the political state of affairs in Mexico. Advices from that country, by the British steamer Clyde, wear a gloomy aspect.

Latest from Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 12.—By the arrival of the steamer Texas, from Vera Cruz, with dates to the 8th inst., we have further intelligence from the city of Mexico. Political affairs were in the same confused condition. Heavy northers have swept over the Gulf lately doing much damage.

The British bark Dagger went ashore on Christmas day near Vera Cruz and was totally lost.

Iowa Democratic Convention.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—The Iowa Democratic State Convention has chosen Geo. W. McClure for Secretary of State; James Pollard for Auditor; Geo. Paul Treasurer, and James Baker for Attorney General. For Presidential Electors were nominated, and eight delegates were appointed to the Cincinnati Convention. It is understood that the delegates are pledged to support Douglas.

New York Soft Shell Convention.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 11.—The "Soft" Democratic State Convention re-assembled to-day, when the committee on resolutions reported a series denouncing slavery agitation and the republican movement; approving the principles of the Kansas and Nebraska bill, and endorsing the resolution touching that bill adopted by the caucus of the democratic members of Congress on the 1st of December; expressing regret at the death of its old antagonist, the whig party, and unreservedly endorsing the administration of General Fillmore in all its measures.

Supreme Court.

The following decisions have been delivered:—NASH, C. J.—In Nash v. Morton, from Pasquoanuk, directing a venire de novo. Also, in Guirkins v. Williams, from Camden; venire de novo. Also, in Grand v. Small, from New York; venire de novo.

PEARSON, J.—In Midgett v. McBride, from Currituck, affirming the judgment. Also, in Caron v. Doxy, from Currituck, affirming the judgment. Also, in Etheridge v. Corporeus, Exrs., from Currituck, affirming the judgment.

BATTLE, J.—In Jones v. Ward, from Martin affirming the judgment. Also, in Murdre v. Saunders, from Perquimans, affirming the judgment. Also, in McLean v. Fairley, in equity, from Richmond; bill dismissed with costs.

Report of the Postmaster General.

This able and carefully prepared report will be read with deep interest, as exhibiting a colossal postal system, with all its stupendous ramifications, without a parallel in the history of the world. The postal operations of England, France, Austria, Russia, and all other nations of the Old World, sink into insignificance when compared with the postal operations of our own country, extending as they do from ocean to ocean, from the great chain of Northern lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, traversing the opposite coasts of half a continent, spanning an isthmus which connects two continents, and employing the noblest and most stupendous works of human engineering in transporting the mails between the New and Old Worlds. For the convenience of our readers we give, in brief, some of the leading features of this valuable document.

Number of post offices in the United States on the 1st of December, 1855, was 24,770, of which 258 are of the class the postmasters of which are appointed by the President.

There are 5,709 mail contractors, with mail routes amounting to 327,908 miles. The total transportation last year of mails was 67,401,166 miles, costing \$3,345,238, as follows:

	Miles.	Price per mile.
Not specified,	24,879,752	54 cents.
By coach,	18,859,118	54 "
By railroad,	19,202,469	104 "
By steamboat,	4,459,827	10 "

Compared with the business of last year, there has been an increase in the railroad service and a decrease in the coach and steamboat services.

Connected with the transportation service there are 310 route agents, 29 local agents, 981 mail messengers.

Statement was made of the failure of the Illinois Central railroad to comply with their agreement to enter into a contract for the transportation of a daily mail between Cairo and New Orleans. [Since the report was written a daily mail has been put on this route.]

Extended and favorable notice was made of the mail service in the Territories, across the isthmus of Panama, and to the Pacific.

The Postmaster General states that he has received abundant proofs of the usefulness of the registration system, and of the necessity of perfecting it by such means as experience may suggest.

The total expenditures of the department for the last year amounted to \$9,968,342.29. Total receipts, \$7,342,139.13.

During the last year there was received from letters, stamps sold, newspapers, pamphlets, &c., &c. the sum of \$6,472,698. The compensation to postmasters, clerk hire, &c., amounted to \$2,476,454.26.

The expenditures for transportation have been increased during the past year, owing to the very great extension of railroad service.

The business of the year 1855 shows an increase of 7.3 per cent. over the business of the preceding year.

The onerous burden imposed upon the department by the franking privilege is dwelt upon at considerable length. During one month 77,727 letters and 693,508 pounds of public documents were sent through the Washington post office alone. If postage had been paid on this matter it would have been at the rate of \$1,468,386 per annum.

The present rates of postage on periodicals and newspapers are not deemed adequate.

Recommendations making compulsory the prepayment by postage stamps on books, pamphlets, circulars, &c. Under the present system great uneasiness exists.

In the estimates of the receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year the sum of \$1,188,151 is given as the deficiency to be provided for by act of Congress.

The report states that the service on the several mail steamship lines during the past year has generally been performed with regularity, and in an acceptable manner.

The increase of postage, as compared with the previous year, on mails conveyed by the Collins line of steamships, was \$196,776.

The pay to and receipts from the Atlantic steamships are thus given, after deducting the inland postage:

	Contract pay.	Mail receipts.
Collins line	\$841,640	\$37,100
Bremen line	200,000	76,037
Havre line	150,000	72,789

Attention is again called to the large sums paid to the Collins line of steamships for the transportation of mails. The Postmaster General sees no reason to change the views as expressed by him in his last report.

Mention is made of a new line of Belgian steamships between New York and Antwerp, and the pending convention to fix the rates of postage between the two ports.

The rates on pamphlets and magazines between the United States and Great Britain, on either side, are, for works not weighing over two ounces, four cents an ounce. No pamphlet weighing over eight, nor periodical over sixteen ounces, can be sent except at the letter rate. Books are likewise subject to letter rate.

The report closes with the following excellent advice:—"The postal establishment is one in which every citizen is most deeply interested, and all should aid in rendering it as perfect as possible. Instead of denunciation, in the event of mistake, carelessness, or accident, as a general rule, certainly the wiser course would be to advise the department of the wrong committed and leave it to apply the remedy."

ANECDOTE OF THE REV. DR. PLUMER.—The Pittsburg Herald tells the following anecdote of the Rev. Dr. Plummer, late of this city:—

During a visit to the Hot Springs, on a certain occasion, he was invited by the company to attend there to preach for them on the Sabbath. He consented. The hall room of the hotel was prepared for religious worship, and the audience assembled. The speaker announced his text, and began his discourse; but was mortified to find that by some of the younger and more frivolous of his hearers, of both sexes, the whole performance was looked on as a good joke, and to be treated accordingly. Some were smiling, some were whispering and an unseemly levity prevailed throughout the congregation. For a few minutes he endeavored to withstand it by a simple presentation of the text; but to no purpose. Stopping short in his discourse, he at once arrested their attention by the question: "My friends, do you know how these Hot Springs are said to have been discovered? I will tell you. Many years since, an old Dutchman and his son, were passing along down the valley, where the road now runs that you see out there?"

"pointing to it through the window"—when, observing the spring, they stopped their team to water the horses. The old man took up the bucket, went to the spring, and dipped it in, when some of the water dashed up on his hand and scalded him. Instantly dropping the bucket, he started for the wagon, running, and calling to his son, in the greatest consternation. "Thrive on, Hans; thrive on; Hell isn't far from dish place!" At this, his audience burst out laughing—when, immediately assuming a look of deepest solemnity and dropping his voice to the low tones that in him are like muttered thunders, he made the application: "I tell you, my friends, Hell is not far from this place!" There were no more smiles in that congregation that day. Some who heard it, said it seemed to them as if the terrors of the Day of Judgement had come.

FIRST VIEW OF HAVANA.—On the left hand rise fortifications massive as those of Malta or Gibraltar, wrought into the dark grey rocks of the Moro, sweeping along the many-hued hillsides of the Cabanas, glittering throughout their lengthening lines with the white uniforms and shining bayonets of the sentinels who guard the proud flag of Spain, that gorgeous banner of blood and of gold. On the right stretch irregular masses of parti-colored buildings, blue, pink, green, yellow, overtopped at intervals by some massive church tower or graceful tufted palaces. Queer-looking boats, emancipated gondolas, shallop-like of the veiled Venetian nuns, and brilliant as butterflies, dart in and out along the crowded quays.

The Montreal Ocean steamship company have given notice that five first-class powerful screw steamers will form the government mail line between Montreal and Liverpool. The steamers are named North America, Anglo-Saxon, Indian, Canadian and Sardinia. They are to leave each city semi-monthly. The North America is to leave Liverpool on Wednesday, the 23d of April, and on her return will leave Montreal on the 24th of May; the others follow in regular succession.

Burnt at Sea.

HALIFAX, Jan. 17.—The America brings intelligence that the ship William Hitchcock, from Savannah, for Havre, was burnt at sea.

Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.

Forty-one years ago this day was fought the memorable battle of New Orleans, and although its annual observance has fallen into partial disuse, it is nevertheless worthy of such commemoration. A brief paragraph may give. On this occasion the American forces under General Jackson, consisting chiefly of volunteers from the Western States, not only successfully resisted an attack of veteran troops crowned with laurels gained in the great Napoleon's campaign, but compelled them to seek safety by a retreat to their vessels of war, with the loss of General Packenham, their commander, and a list of killed and wounded numbering in the aggregate three thousand men. The loss on the part of the Americans was only seven men killed and six wounded.

It has been made a question of late years whether General Jackson formed his defence of cotton bales or not. One writer, in giving the substance of a conversation which he alleged to have been held between himself and General Jackson, made the latter emphatically deny that the cotton bales so often referred to in subsequent histories, constituted no part whatever of his defences, which were merely low breastworks of alluvial soil, capable of being overleaped at all points by any ordinary horseman.

One of our morning contemporaries also assumed, in mentioning the story of the cotton bales, had no foundation in truth, and the statement that it was extensively copied into the journals of the day. We have reason to believe that both parties are incorrect, that General Jackson must have qualified his denial by restricting the breast-work of cotton bales to a part of his line of defence, and that our neighbor has assumed the absence of this novel species of material for defensive purposes, without fairly examining into the truth of the incident as handed down to us by the historical accounts of the last war and in local publications.

Recently a work has appeared, which in our opinion confirms the original statement.

In the autobiography of Vincent Nolte, a commercial agent of several large European houses, and particularly of the famous bankers, the House of Amsterdam, the writer, then engaged in business in New Orleans, expressly states that not only did cotton bales form a part of Jackson's line of defence against the British, but that the cotton bales so used, two hundred and forty-five bales belonged to the aforesaid Nolte, and about sixty bales were the property of Fernando Alzar, a Spaniard resident at New Orleans, the whole forming the cargo of the bark Pallas, then lying in the stream, not far from the American Camp. The entire narrative of Nolte, which bears the title of "Fifty Years in Both Hemispheres," is replete with interest and adventure, and sheds considerable light upon social and commercial life at the South during the earlier years of the present century.—Baltimore Patriot, 8th inst.

DISMISSAL OF MR. CRAMPTON AND THE BRITISH CONSUL.—The New York Tribune has the following dispatch from Washington:—

A decisive step has been taken relative to British enlistments. The long correspondence on this subject between the two governments has been closed, and an elaborate and complete dispatch to the British Consul, sent last Saturday, requiring the British government to recall Mr. Crampton, or leaving the alternative of the administration giving him his passports here.

The same paper signifies distinctly the revocation of the exequators of Consuls Barclay at New York, Mathew at Philadelphia, and Raycraft at Cincinnati, who were implicated in the enlistments. England is indirectly prepared to see this contingency by previous agreement, but still the company demand may exist a temporary feeling, and lead to some difficulty in the recognition of Mr. Buchanan's successor, it may also embarrass Lord Palmerston's official tenure. From positive developments this course is inevitable, and must be sustained. If England makes it the cause of exceptions in settling the Central American question the responsibility will be her own.

A CENTENARIAN INDIAN CHIEF.—His Excellency O'Brien Skandogh, a chief of the Six Nations, who was born in 1752, was in this city yesterday. This aged chief, now 104 years of age, was sent to France to be educated, previous to the Revolution. He returned to his country after going through the medical school in Paris, in company with the young Marquis de Lafayette, whom he followed through the wars of the American Revolution, and did service in that campaign. He was at the battle of Brandywine, where he attended upon Gen. Lafayette, binding up his wounds, received in the affair. During the war he suffered a bayonet wound in the right lung, which even now causes him uneasiness in case he takes a cold. Although more than a century has passed over his head, he is still hale and vigorous, erect in his port. His Masonic